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The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

Thanks go to our staff artist, Ray Harm, for this excellent painting of a Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*.

IN MEMORIAM: HERBERT L. CLAY, JR.

The Kentucky Ornithological Society lost a well-respected member, Dr. Herbert L. Clay, Jr., on May 14, 1996. Herb was a specialist in internal medicine, and most of his career was spent within the University of Louisville's Medical School where he taught from 1949 until retirement. He was chief of cardiology there from 1952-65 and also served professionally as a member of several national medical boards. Herb's interest in photography melded well with his wife Kathryn's interest in birds. They joined the Society in 1971, and the two traveled widely throughout the western hemisphere in search of new species, Kathryn for her life list and Herb for his photo collection. Herb's special passion was hummingbirds, which he studied and photographed in great detail. Herb authored and co-authored (with Kathryn) nearly ten articles on Kentucky's avifauna, documenting in one extensive field note the state's first record of the Rufous Hummingbird in 1990.

Many will remember Herb for his wonderful photographic skills, which he offered to the memberships of both the Beckham Bird Club and the KOS through numerous slide presentations. However, most members' fondest memories are likely those of Herb as our host during several of the Society's spring meetings at Rough River Lake State Park. The Clays generously offered to host field trips and lavish Saturday lunches at their Big Pond Sanctuary in Grayson County during the Society's spring meetings in 1982, 1986, 1990 and 1994. Herb served as president of the Beckham Bird Club, the Society's Louisville chapter from 1977-78. He served as a councillor on the KOS Board from 1991-1993, and most recently served as President of the KOS from 1994-1996. His interest in sharing birds with all of us will be dearly missed.

IN MEMORIAM: ANNA LEE STEVENSON

Anna Lee Stevenson died August 6, 1996. She was a valued member of the Owensboro chapter and, indeed, of the state Kentucky Ornithological Society. She was wife of Tommy Stevenson, an active member of the K.O.S. for many years. Together they participated in nearly all of our activities, such as the Christmas Count. Anna Lee will be missed by the K.O.S. members and sincere sympathies are expressed to Tommy Stevenson and family.

THE NESTING SEASON - 1996

FRED M. BUSROE

Precipitation in early June was above normal while low in late June with temperatures about normal for the month. During July rainfall was normal or just above normal with temperatures ranging slightly below normal. The total number of reports being submitted was below normal, however a highlight is the report of nesting Red-breasted Nuthatches in the Red River Gorge. The number of warblers reported from eastern Kentucky was good. Some interesting observations, which included nesting Osprey, were submitted from far western Kentucky.

Abbreviations - AJP = A. J. Jolly Park, Campbell County; BBS = Breeding Bird Survey; BCNP = Boone County Cliffs Nature Preserve, Boone County; BBM - Big Black Mountain, Harlan County; BSF = Big South Fork National River Area, McCreary County, BBS for US Park Service; Bur = Burlington, Boone County; Camp = Campbell County; Car = Carlisle County; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Rowan County; Cum = Cumberland County; CGNP = Cumberland Gap National Park, Bell and Harlan Counties; FtM - Fort Mitchell, Campbell County; Ful = Fulton County; GCA = Greater Cincinnati Airport, Boone County; Ghe = Ghent Power Plant, Carroll County; Han = Hanson, Hopkins County; Har = Hart County; HC = Highland Cemetery, Kenton County; Heg = Hegira BBS, Cumberland and Monroe Counties; Hic = Hickman, Fulton County; Ind = Indian Fort Mountain, Madison County; Jel - Jellico BBS for US Forest Service, Whitley County; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; LCW = Lilley Cornett's Woods, Letcher County; LPew = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; Mad = Madisonville, Hopkins County; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; Mel = Meldahl Dam, Bracken County; Mid = Middle Creek, Boone County; Mont = Monticello BBS, McCreary and Wayne Counties; MP = Mosley's Pond, Logan County; ORNW = Ohio River National Wildlife Refuge, Lewis County; Pan = Paintsville BBS, Lawrence and Johnson counties; Pend = Pendleton County; Pet = Petersburg, Boone County; Phel = Phelps BBS, Pike County; Pip = Pippa Passes BBS, Knot County; Ren = Renfro Valley, Rockcastle County; SD = Smithland Dam, Livingston County; SG = Silver Grove, Campbell County; Sun = Sunnybrook BBS, Clinton and Wayne County; Swan = Swan Lake, Ballard County; SCCT = Swift's Camp Creek Trail, Red River Gorge, Wolfe County; Wic = Wickcliffe, Ballard County.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT — One on 13 July at Swan (Hap, CP).

GREAT BLUE HERON — One on 5, 6, and 15 July in Har (MS); 115 on 27 July in transient ponds south of Hic (Hap, CP).

GREAT EGRET — 37 on 5 July and 120 on 27 July in transient ponds south of Hic (Hap, BP); one at MP on 27 July (MB).

SNOWY EGRET — 75+ on 27 July in the vicinity of Lake #9, Ful (Hap, CP).

LITTLE BLUE HERON — Approximately 100 adults in the vicinity of Lake #9, Ful on 27 July (Hap, CP).

CATTLE EGRET — One at Pet farm pond on 20 July (LMc); one on 27 July at Lake #9, Ful (Hap, CP).

GREEN HERON — One on 21 June at SG (FR); 2 on 11 July at SG (FR); one seen on 22 and 26 July in Har (MS); 5 at MP on 27 July (MB); normal numbers of about 100 per trip at MCFH (FB).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON — One immature on 20 July at a Pet farm pond (LMc); one adult on 27 July at MCFH (FB).

CANADA GOOSE — 30 on 27 July east of levee, near Hic (Hap, CP).

WOOD DUCK — Three separate broods were present at Pet farm pond during June (LMc); 6 on 17 July in SG (FR); 2 on 27 July east of levee near Hic (Hap, CP); 30 on 27 July at MP (MB); 2 on 30 July at SG (FR).

MALLARD — Eight young on 27 July at Swan (Hap, CP).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL — 10 on 27 July east of levee near Hic (CP).

BLACK VULTURE — Active nest on Manchester 2 on 8 June at ORNW (RG); one on 5 July in Car, one on 27 July in Ful (CP).

TURKEY VULTURE — Active nest in abandoned house basement on Manchester 2 on 8 June at ORNW (RG); fairly common in area west of LBL but no large groups (CP).

OSPREY — Nesting activity in Land Between the Lakes:

Nest #1. Two adults and two young present on platform on 1 July but vacated on 16 July near US 68 bridge, Trigg County (Hap, CP);

Nest #2. Two adults and one juvenile feeding at nesting platform near Silo Overlook, LBL during mid-July (CP);

Nest #3. Two adults and two juveniles during mid-July at nest on electric tower 5 miles south of SD (JE, MM, CP).

BALD EAGLE — Two at LBL, Trigg County, on 2 July (MB).

MISSISSIPPI KITE — Less frequent this year. On six visits, only twice found more than two birds - three over Hic on 10 July and two over Wic (CP).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK — One on 13 June at Camp Springs, Camp (FR); one on 14 June at BSF (SS).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK — One on 14 June at BSF (SS).

RED-TAILED HAWK — Active nests were observed at Wolpers Creek, Boone County and at Ghe (LMc); one to six seen during July in Har (MS).

WILD TURKEY — Two on 5 June at Jel and one at BSF on 14 June (SS).

NORTHERN BOBWHITE — Two on 21 June in SG (FR); abundant in open areas along Mayfield Creek, Car (CP); 10 on 28 and 30 July in rural Camp (FR).

KILLDEER — Normal numbers west of LBL (CP).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS — 2 on 13 July and 3 on 18 July near Swan (Hap, CP).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER — 5 on 13 July near Swan (Hap, CP); one on 30 July at SG (FR); one on 31 July at LPew (JWH).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER — Three on 27 July at Hic (Hap, CP).

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER — Six on 27 July near Hic (Hap, CP).

LEAST SANDPIPER — 10 on 13 July near Swan (Hap, CP).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER — 4 on 13 July near Swan (Hap, CP).

DUNLIN — One showing black on belly on 13 July near Swan (Hap, CP).

DOWITCHER — Two on 13 July near Swan (Hap, CP).

RING-BILLED GULL — Two immatures on 17 July at AJP (FR).

LEAST TERN — One on 13 July near Swan (Hap, CP); 12 on 27 July at Hic (Hap, CP).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO — Two on 5 June at Jel (SS).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO — Nine on 5 June at Jel and 7 at BSF on 14 June (SS).

GREAT HORNED OWL — One on 8 June and one 14 June in Har (MS).

BARRED OWL — Two fledglings on 15 June at Camp Springs, Camp (FR); recently fledged young were noted along MC mid-June (LMc); one present from 21 to 28 July near Han (BW).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW — One still calling on 28 July at Han (BW).

WHIP-POOR-WILL — One on 14 June at BSF (SS).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD — Three on 5 June at Jel and 2 at BSF on 14 June (SS); 3 males and 5 females at feeder June and July at Han (BW); as many as 30 at a feeder during the period near Han (KD).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE — Six at Jel on 5 June and one on 14 June at BSF (SS).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER — Three on 5 June at Jel (SS); 34 on 6 June on CGNP BBS (BS); 2 on 6 June Heg (SS); one at MP on 9 June (MB); two on 14 June at

BSF (SS); 7 on 21 June at Pan (BS); 8 on 21 June at Pip (SS); 2 on 16 July at Mel (FR); one at MP on 27 July (MB).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER — One at Elk Creek Road, Mad (JWH); 3 singing throughout June at MCFH (FB).

LEAST FLYCATCHER — Three on 6 June at CGNP (BS); 10 on 22 June at Phel (SS).

EASTERN KINGBIRD — Two on 27 June at Ren (FR); 4 to 6 present at MCFH during the period (FB).

BANK SWALLOW — 50 active nests at head of Manchester 2 on 16 June at ORNW (RG).

CLIFF SWALLOW — 40 at thirty nests on 16 July at Mel (FR); approximately 35 using nests at CRL dam (FB).

PURPLE MARTIN — 40 at nest gourds on 9 July in SG (FR); 50+ (mostly females and young) on 20 July at SG, birds had vacated this colony by 29 July (FR).

FISH CROW — Heard one or two on several trips to far western Kentucky but not as numerous as previous years (CP).

VEERY — Fourteen were near the summit of BBM on 29 June (FR).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH — A pair was seen on 17 June and 1 July at SCCT; a total of 4, including a male feeding one young in same location of SCCT; 2 observed on 22 July at SCCT (FR). For details see *The Kentucky Warbler*, August 1996: Vol. 72, No. 3. This first nesting record has been submitted to the Kentucky Bird Records Committee.

GRAY CATBIRD — Four on 9 June at MP (MB).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD — A nest at HC in June, a nest with 3 eggs in FtM on 5 June and a nest with 4 young on 4 July at Bur (LMc); rather common observation near Mad during season (JWH).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE — Three on 18 July, a pair nested about 5 miles east of Hic (CP).

WHITE-EYED VIREO — Seven on 6 June at CGNP (BS); 11 at Heg on 6 June (SS); 4 on 14 June at BSF (SS); 17 on 15 June at Mont (SS); 45 at Pan on 21 June (BS); 5 on 21 June at Pip (SS); two on 22 June at Phel (SS); 14 observed during June on four trips near Mad (JWH).

SOLITARY VIREO — One on 5 June at Jel (SS); 8 at CGNP on 6 June (BS); 3 on 14 June at BSF (SS).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO — Six on 5 June at Jel (SS); 6 on 6 June at CGNP (BS); 5 at Heg on 6 June (SS); 6 on 15 June at Mont (SS); 7 on 21 June at Pan (BS); 4 at Pip on 21 June (SS); 5 on 22 June at Phel (SS); single birds observed on 19 June, 28 June, and on 5 July near Mad (JWH).

WARBLING VIREO — Four on 9 June at MP (MB); 10 observed near Mad during the period (JWH).

RED-EYED VIREO — 77 on 5 June at JEL (SS); the largest number reported was 115 at CGNP on 6 June (BS); 41 on 6 June at Heg (SS); 77 on 14 June at BSF (SS); 45 on 15 June at Mont (SS); 84 at Pan on 21 June (BS); 90 on 21 June at Pip (SS); 95 on 22 June at Phel (SS); 4 on 26 June at Ind and 2 on 27 June at Ren (FR).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER — One on 6 June at CGNP (BS); one on 15 June at Mont (SS); 16 on 21 June at Pan (BS); 6 on 21 June at Pip (SS); 3 at Phe on 22 June (SS).

NORTHERN PARULA — Twelve on 1 June at SCCT (FR); 5 on 5 June at Jel (SS); 5 on 6 June at CGNP (BS); 7 on 6 June at Heg (SS); 11 on 21 June at Pan (BS).

YELLOW WARBLER — 15 on 6 June at CGNP (BS); 52 on 21 June at Pan (BS).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER — One was found on 5 June at Jel (SS); 18 on 29 June at the summit of BBM (FR).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER — Eight at the summit of BBM and two lower on the mountain on 29 June (FR).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER — Twenty at SCCT on 1 June (FR); 7 on 6 June at CGNP (BS); 31 on 14 June at BSF (SS); 6 on 15 June at Mont (SS); one at Pip on 21 June (SS).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER — Four on 5 June at Jel (SS); 7 on 6 June at CGNP (BS); one on 6 June at Heg (SS); 10 on 14 June at BSF (SS); 10 on 15 June at Mont (SS); 6 at Pan on 21 June (BS); 3 on 21 June at Pip (SS).

PINE WARBLER — One on 6 June at CGNP (BS); 10 on 14 June at BSF (SS); 2 on 15 June at Mont (SS); four on 21 June at Pan (BS).

PRAIRIE WARBLER — One on 4 June at SG (FR); two on 6 June at CGNP (BS); 13 on 6 June at Heg (SS); 10 in southern Camp on 12 June (FR); 8 on 14 June at BSF (SS); 17 on 15 June at Mont (SS); 28 on 21 June at Pan (BS).

CERULEAN WARBLER — 34 was the largest number observed on 5 June at Jel (SS); two on 6 June at CGNP (BS); one on 6 June at Heg (SS); 9 on 21 June at Pip (SS); 4 on 22 June at Phel (SS); 8 were singing on 23 June in southern Camp (FR).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER — Ten on 5 June at Jel (SS); 8 on 6 June at CGNP (BS); 17 on 14 June at BSF (SS); 4 at Mont on 15 June (SS); 3 on 21 June at Pan (BS); 9 on 21 June at Pip (SS); 6 on 22 June at Phel (SS).

AMERICAN REDSTART — Eleven on 5 June at Jel (SS); two on 6 June at CGNP (BS); one on 15 June at Mont (SS); 2 on 21 June at Pan (BS); 2 on 21 June at Pip (SS); 4 on 22 June at Phel (SS).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER — Two on 9 June at MP (MB); 9 were observed on five trips during June near Mad (JWH).

WORM-EATING WARBLER — Eight on 5 June at Jel (SS); three on 6 June at CGNP (BS); 18 on 14 June at BSF (SS); 4 on 15 June at Mont (SS); small numbers were present on 15 June at BCNP (LMc); 4 on 21 June at Pip (SS); 6 on 22 June at Phel (SS).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER — One was seen on 1 and 2 June at SCCT (FR); three were counted on the CGNP BBS on 6 June (BS).

OVENBIRD — Twenty-two were observed on 1 June at SCCT (FR); 29 on 5 June at Jel (SS); 53 on 6 June at CGNP (BS); 9 at Heg on 6 June (SS); 54 on 14 June at BSF (SS); 11 on 15 June at Mont (SS); small numbers were present on 15 June at BCNP (LMc); 13 on 21 June at Pan (BS); 47 at Pip on 21 June (SS); 34 on 22 June at Phel (SS); two on 27 June at Ren (FR).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH — One on 1 June at SCCT (FR); four on 5 June at Jel (SS); six on 6 June at CGNP (BS).

KENTUCKY WARBLER — Seven on 5 June at Jel (SS); 10 at CGNP on 6 June (BS); 2 on 6 June at Mont (SS); one on 14 June at BSF (SS); 12 on 21 June at Pan (BS); 12 on 21 June at Pip (SS); 12 on 22 June at Phel (SS).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT — 14 on 6 June at CGNP (BS); 29 on 6 June at Heg (SS); 20 on 15 June at Mont (SS); a high number of 90 was recorded on 21 June at Pan BBS (BS); 17 on 21 June at Pip (SS); 12 on 22 June at Phel (SS).

HOODED WARBLER — 18 were at SCCT on 1 June (FR); 17 on 5 June at Jel (SS); 20 on 6 June at CGNP (BS); two on 6 June at Heg (SS); 44 on 14 June at BSF (SS); 18 on 15 June at Mont (SS); 9 on 21 June at Pan (BS); 15 on 22 June at Phel (SS) 19 on 22 June at Phel (SS); nest with three hatchlings at LCW on 30 June (FR).

CANADA WARBLER — Two near the summit of BBM on 29 June (FR).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT — Twelve on 5 June at Jel (SS); 9 on 6 June at CGNP (BS); 24 on 6 June at Heg (SS); 18 on 14 June at BSF (SS); 24 on 15 June at Mont (SS); 42 on 21 June at Pan (BS); 9 on 21 June at Pip (SS); 4 at Phel on 22 June (SS).

SUMMER TANAGER — Two on 6 June at CGNP (BS); 4 on 6 June at Heg (SS); 8 on 15 June at Mont (SS); 13 on 21 June at Pan (BS); 2 on 21 June at Pip (SS); 2 at Phel on 22 June (SS); 2 on 26 June at Ind (FR); one on 21 July at Highland Heights Nature Trail, Camp (FR).

SCARLET TANAGER — 20 on 5 June at Jel (SS); 11 observed on 6 June at CGNP (BS); 2 on 6 June at Heg (SS); 21 on 14 June at BSF (SS); 16 on 15 June at Mont (SS); one on 21 June at Pan (BS); 7 on 21 June at Pip (SS); 5 on 22 June at Phel (SS); 8 were seen on three trips near Mad in June, above normal for the area (JWH).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK — Two at the summit of BBM on 29 June (FR).

BLUE GROSBEAK — Two on 6 June at CGNP (BS); 6 on 15 June at Mont (SS); two on 21 June at Pan (BS); fifteen sightings of single males and pairs with young seen along AA Highway in Camp during the period (FR); one on 20 July at Pet (LMc); 13 on 23 July near Brazzle Bridge, Mad area (JWH).

DICKCISSEL — One on 15 June on Mont BBS (SS); one to three observed in 27 different dates during the period in Har (MS); 29 on 24 June in northern Hopkins County (JWH); 20 to 30 heard and observed in Canewood area, Clark County on 4 and 22 July, 8 on 23 July in Bourbon County (FR); two in central Logan County on 15 July (MB).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW — One on 15 June on Mont (SS); one adult and two juveniles on 6 July at the GCA (LMc); one to five seen on 14 different dates in Har (MS); 2 at Snyder Airport, Pend on 28 July (FR).

DARK-EYED JUNCO — Four with one feeding young on 29 June at the summit of BBM (FR).

ORCHARD ORIOLE — Five on 4 June in SG (FR); 6 on 15 June at Mont (SS); 5 on 6 June at CGNP (BS); 8 on 6 June at Heg (SS); 8 on 15 June at Mont (SS); 8 on 21 June at Pan (BS); 2 at Pip on 21 June (SS); one at Phel on 22 June (SS).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE — Two on 4 June in SG (FR); one at CGNP on 6 June (BS); one on 5 June at LPew, rare for this area (JWH).

Contributors - Fred Busroe (FB), Mark Bennett (MB), Hap Chambers (Hap), Kathy Dickerson (KD), J.T. Ervin (JE), Ruby A. Gelis (RG), James W. Hancock (JWH), Lee McNeely (LMc), Mike Miller (MM), Clell Peterson (CP), Frank Renfrow (FR), Barbara Stedman (BS), Stephen Stedman (SS), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS), Bonnie West (BW).

PROVISIONING OF NESTLINGS BY MALE AND FEMALE DOWNY WOODPECKERS

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INTRODUCTION

With the exception of brood parasites like Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), most birds provide some type of parental care after eggs are laid (Lack 1968, Skutch 1976). This care may involve such behaviors as incubating, brooding, or nest defense. However, among the most widely studied aspects of avian parental care is the feeding of nestlings, and recent studies have revealed considerable variation in the extent to which males and females provide such care. The reasons for such variation are not clearly understood and additional studies of species in a variety of taxonomic groups are clearly needed.

Most studies of parental behavior to date have been with passerines, and less is known about such behavior in some other groups of birds, including woodpeckers. The objective of our study was to examine the provisioning behavior of males and females in one species of woodpecker, the Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*).

METHODS

Downy Woodpeckers were studied at the Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area, located 17 km southeast of Richmond, Kentucky. Feeding stations stocked with sunflower seeds and suet were established in early February 1994. Beginning on 28 March, downies coming to feed at these stations were captured in mist nets. Captured downies were banded with a National Biological Service aluminum band plus a unique combination of colored, plastic bands. Subsequent observations of these individually-marked woodpeckers enabled us to locate four nest sites.

From 21 May through 1 June 1994, observations of adults visiting cavity entrances were made at 4 nests using camcorders. Camcorders were mounted in specially-constructed boxes about 4 to 5 meters from the nest cavity entrances. At each nest site, these boxes were left in place throughout the taping period to allow adults to acclimate to their presence. Videotaping of nests occurred sometime during the period from 10 to 20 days post-hatching. Nestling age was determined by noting the date of fledging and assuming a nestling period of 21 days (Yom-Tov and Ar 1993).

Videotapes were subsequently viewed to determine the identity of adults (male or female) visiting the nest and the duration of each nest visit. We also noted whether the visiting adult entered the nest cavity and, if so, whether they left with a fecal sac.

Possible differences in behavior between adult males and females were examined using chi-square tests and Wilcoxon tests. All statistical analyses were conducted using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS Institute 1989).

RESULTS

Each of the four woodpecker nests was videotaped on an average of 4.75

days, ranging from 3 to 6 days. Taping time at each of the four nests ranged from 4.2 to 12.75 hours, with a total taping time (all four nests combined) of 33.4 hours.

Overall, adult Downy Woodpeckers made 383 food deliveries to nests (11.47 visits/hour). Adult males made significantly ($\chi^2 = 10.1$, $P = 0.02$) more visits ($N = 208$ or 6.23 visits/hour) than did females ($N = 175$ or 5.24 visits/hour). Males made more visits to nest cavities than females at two nests (60 vs. 46 and 101 vs. 71, respectively), the number of visits by male and female was similar at one nest (20 vs. 22), and a female made more visits than her mate at one nest (36 vs. 27).

The duration of visits by males and females differed significantly ($z = 4.5$, $P < 0.0001$), with males remaining at nests an average of 24.4 sec and females an average of 13.0 sec. Males entered cavities significantly more often than females ($\chi^2 = 11.4$, $P = 0.001$), with males entering 31 times and females 7 times. Males were also significantly more likely to remove fecal sacs from cavities ($\chi^2 = 16.8$, $P < 0.0001$), with males observed removing fecal sacs 20 times and females never observed doing so.

DISCUSSION

Our results indicate that male Downy Woodpeckers contribute as much or, at least among some pairs, more parental care during the nestling period than do females. Similarly, Kilham (1983:26) observed parental behavior at six Downy Woodpecker nests and found that males and females "feed their young about equally." Kilham (1983) also noted that males were more frequently involved in nest sanitation (removing fecal sacs) than were females. Lawrence (1966) monitored three Downy Woodpecker nests and reported that males and females fed nestlings at similar rates.

Among woodpeckers in general, males appear to feed nestlings at similar or higher rates than do females. For example, Lawrence (1966:117) also examined the parental provisioning behavior of Hairy Woodpeckers (*Picoides villosus*), Common Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*), and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius*) and observed that "in general, the male's share in feeding the young is greater than the female's..." Kilham (1983) observed two pairs of Pileated Woodpeckers (*Dryocopus pileatus*) and found similar numbers of feeding visits to nests by males and females.

Males and females have been reported to feed nestlings at similar rates in a variety of species, including Northern Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*; Breitwisch *et al.* 1986), Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*; Leffelaar and Robertson 1986), Bachman's Sparrows (*Aimophila aestivalis*; Haggerty 1992) and several other species (Best 1977, Knapton 1984, Lyon *et al.* 1987). In other species, however, females feed nestlings at higher rates than do males (Nolan 1978, Pinkowski 1978, Howe 1979).

The reasons for these differences among socially monogamous species are not clearly understood (Breitwisch *et al.* 1986). However, at least two factors may contribute to variation in levels of male parental care and, more specifically, to the relatively high levels of parental care exhibited by male Downy Woodpeckers. First, opportunities to engage in extra-pair copulations vary among populations and species and a male may seek copulations with other females according to the costs and benefits of provisioning his own offspring (Birkhead and Møller 1992). In other words, if male parental care is important, a male should spend more effort on parental duties than on the acquisition of additional females (Birkhead and Møller 1992).

Second, the population sex ratio may dramatically influence levels of male parental care (Breitwisch *et al.* 1986). For example, if the sex ratio is male-biased, males probably have little opportunity to change mates or acquire additional females. As a result, females may demand a level of parental care greater than males would give if they could obtain additional mates (Breitwisch *et al.* 1986). In contrast, if the breeding adult sex ratio is unity or female-biased, males might be able to decrease their level of parental care at no cost to their reproductive success. This could occur because females might compensate for a reduced level of male parental care or the rate of weight gain by nestlings might decrease very little, and young would fledge at only slightly lighter weights. In both cases, males may not experience a reduction in reproductive success (Breitwisch *et al.* 1986).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Tom Mahan and Carlo Abbruzzese for assistance in locating nests. Financial support was provided by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and by Eastern Kentucky University.

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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FALL MEETING

October 4-6, 1996

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its fall meeting at Ken Lake State Resort Park October 4-6, 1996. Vice-president Wendell Kingsolver presided at the Friday evening program. After he welcomed everyone to the meeting, he received a very positive response to the question of how many attendees were new. Wendell informed the group that three field trips, one to the dams lead by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., one to Hematite Lake and the Nature Center in the Land Between the Lakes lead by Fred Busroe and Blaine Ferrell, and one in the vicinity of the lodge lead by Willard Gray, would begin at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday. Next, he introduced the evening speakers. The first was Lisa Gericke, Wildlife Biologist with Westvaco Corporation, who described Westvaco's new wildlife management area and its birds. Jim Williams and Dona Coates reported on the variety of shorebirds they observed on their trip to the Memphis Sewage Ponds under the guidance of Jeff Wilson. Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., thanked members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society for their help on the *Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas* which has recently been published. He brought copies of the new book for members to purchase at a reduced rate. Clell Peterson gave an impassioned talk on reasons for the decline of Red-headed Woodpeckers in the Hickman Bottoms based on his years of experience with the area and noted environmental changes. A social hour, graciously hosted by the Kingsolvers in their lodge room, followed the talks.

The K.O.S. Board met at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday in Meeting Room A of the lodge.

Wendell Kingsolver opened the Saturday evening program by announcing a gift of \$1,000 from the Beckham Bird Club to support the Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Grant Fund. Blaine Ferrell then compiled the checklist of birds observed during the field trips. A total of 90 species was recorded. Wendell then introduced the guest speaker, Ginny Kingsolver. Ginny, with assistance from Wendell, presented an excellent program with slides of the flora, fauna, and landscape encountered during their 1995 trip to South Africa. Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. made copies of *The Breeding Bird Atlas of Kentucky* available for sale to the members both before and after the Saturday evening program. Field trips to the dam area, the Land Between the Lakes, including the Silo Overlook area, and near the lodge were planned for Sunday.

The spring meeting will be held at Barren River State Resort Park, April 25-27, 1997.

ATTENDANCE AT THE FALL MEETING

BENTON: Denise Boaz and Gene Boaz

BEREA: Art Ricketts and Tina Ricketts

BOWLING GREEN: Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell and David Roemer

BURLINGTON: Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Lee McNeely and Lynda McNeely

CADIZ: Cookie Gray and Willard Gray

CARLISLE: Ginny Kingsolver and Wendell Kingsolver
COX'S CREEK: Dona Coates and Roger Coates
CUNNINGHAM: Maurica Toon
DANVILLE: Neil Eklund
FALLS OF ROUGH: Kathryn Clay and Joyce Porter
GILBERTSVILLE: Rowena Cary
LEXINGTON: Jim Williams
LOUISVILLE: Mary Bill Bauer, Kay Mudd, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Martha S. Pike, Robert L. Pike, Jerry Whitfield and Norma Whitfield
MACEO: Bert Powell and Millie Powell
MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe
MORGANTOWN: Carroll Tichenor and Doris Tichenor
MUNFORDVILLE: Logan Kistler and Steve Kistler
MURRAY: Hap Chambers, Hunter Hancock, Mike Miller, Carl Mowery, Clell Peterson and Sandra Sanders
OWENSBORO: Carolyn Hast, Robert Hast, Janet Howard, Marilee Thompson, Wendell Thompson and Bill Tyler
PADUCAH: Bernice Caddell, Kevin Gericke, Lisa Gericke, Bonnie McNeely and Sam McNeely
RICHMOND: A.L. Whitt, Willie Whitt, Janet Wickersham and J.D. Wickersham
RUSSELLVILLE: Mark Bennett and Tommie Gail Bennett
UTICA: Brenda Eaden and Tony Eaden
WINCHESTER: Lowell Strine and Susan Strine
DYERSBURG, TN: Betty Leggett and Ken Leggett

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE FALL MEETING, 1996

Birds observed on Friday and Saturday on field trips at Ken Lake State Resort Park and the Land Between the Lakes were Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Wild Turkey, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, *Empidonax* sp., Eastern Phoebe, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler,

Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow for a total of 90 species. A Bewick's Wren and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were added from Sunday morning field trips bringing the total to 92 species for the weekend.

BOOK REVIEWS

STOKES FIELD GUIDE TO BIRDS: Eastern Region,

by Donald and Lillian Stokes.

Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1996;

471 pp., over 900 color illustrations, flexible cover, \$16.95.

This is the fourth field guide I have reviewed and to some extent the most impressive because of its vast amount of information. The authors call it "a bird guide for the 21st century." It contains the usual field guide information, but it also provides information on breeding biology, vocalizations, behavior, and conservation. These are aspects of what the authors call "three-dimensional birding - identification, behavior, and conservation."

In this guide there is no time lost in locating orders and families of birds. Inside the flexible front and back covers is an alphabetical index to the various groups of birds with page numbers given for each group. A color tab index to bird groups faces the front and back covers, leading one immediately to the section of the book containing that bird group. For the beginning birder there is a division entitled Quick Guide to the Most Common Birds, which contains photographs of the species most commonly seen about the home and at feeders. There are also six inclusions entitled Learning Pages to assist the beginning birder in identifying hawks, shorebirds, gulls, flycatchers, warblers, and sparrows; these inclusions contain photographs and identification tips for these less easily identified species. However, it lacks a desirable feature found in field guides by Peterson and Robbins, *et al.* - illustrations of similar species on the same page.

The Species Accounts are packed with information. A typical page contains common name, scientific name, photograph, North American range map, and units entitled identification, feeding, nesting, other behavior, habitat, voice, and concentration. Symbols of a bird feeder and a birdhouse are used to indicate those species that may be seen at feeders or which may live in bird houses. The unit entitled Feeding will list the preferred food for those birds utilizing feeders. The photographs for the most part are excellent, often showing adult and immature plumage, male and female plumages in those sexually dimorphic species, and seasonal plumages for some birds. The range maps are postage-stamp size and lack visual acuteness when blue and green colors adjoin. The Feeding unit includes major food items and in some species the method of feeding. The Nesting unit includes a brief description of the nest, clutch size, egg description, incubation

period, fledgling period, number of broods per season, and the developmental state of the newly hatched bird. The unit entitled Other Behavior contains unique behavior. Comments are made concerning habitat. Brief descriptions of sounds, sometimes including both song and call, are given.

The method of presenting information about the conservation status of each species is unique and can rapidly be seen. It is based primarily on the Breeding Bird Survey for the years 1966 through 1993 and the Christmas Bird Count for the years 1965 through 1989. Arrows are used to show increases or decreases in numbers. Two arrows indicate a change of two percent or more per year.

I was impressed with the amount of information which can be given for a species on one page. For the first time a bird enthusiast can identify a bird, see its range, and learn of its natural history and conservation status on one page. I do not consider this publication superior to that of Peterson or Robbins, *et al.* in identifying birds in the field, but its wealth of information enhances its value and increases the biological knowledge of those using it.

-- H. E. SHADOWEN , 1927 Cedar Ridge Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42101.

THE KENTUCKY BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, 1996;
384 pp., 8.5 X 11 inches, hard cover, \$29.95.

The author appropriately begins this thorough coverage of the breeding status and distribution of birds in Kentucky with a rather lengthy list of acknowledgements to credit the numerous volunteers and sponsoring agencies involved in this massive project. The reader is then introduced to the censusing techniques and data coding used in generating the atlas maps, and species considered notable (*i.e.*, rare, threatened or endangered) are identified. A helpful section describing population trends and limitations in drawing conclusions based on the data are included under the *Results and Discussion* section. In addition, interesting comparisons are made between Atlas data and Breeding Bird Survey data for the 30 most common species. Data processing, census area coverage, codes indicating evidence of breeding, species abundance, and forest cover in census areas are described in detail in order for the reader to understand data presented in the species accounts which make up the vast majority of the book.

Each species receives a two-page coverage, including information on preferred habitat, probable distribution and abundance in Kentucky prior to settlement, distribution and abundance of breeding species now, and brief nesting biology. Information regarding dates of peak clutch completion, average clutch size, nest site, use of nest materials, construction, and height is also included. Comments are made regarding species trends, where appropriate. A nice touch is the inclusion of an excellent black-and-white photograph of each species. The layout of data on each species is handy in that the narrative and photograph of each bird occurs on the left hand page and the maps depicting breeding status and abundance, analysis of block data by physiographic province, and the summary of breeding status are on the facing page.

The book concludes with sections on non-breeding birds observed during censusing and extinct or breeding species extirpated from Kentucky. Appendices describing physiographic provinces complete with photographs representative of habitat types found in each province, a table listing common and scientific names of plants cited in the text, and a sample Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas field card were for the most part helpful.

This book offers an excellent snapshot of the current breeding status of birds in Kentucky upon which comparisons with the past and the future status of breeding birds can be made. The information included for each species is a handy reference for anyone interested in studying the breeding biology and distribution of birds within Kentucky, as well as interesting and informative for the novice. This book is also an excellent reference for persons in other states who would like to know where and when to observe some of our less common species within the state during the breeding season.

-- BLAINE R. FERRELL, Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY, 42101.

RECENT CHANGES TO ORNITHOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE OF KENTUCKY'S BIRDS

Since the publication of the 6th edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds (1983), six supplements have appeared. The 35th through 40th supplements have included several changes to the English and scientific names of Kentucky's birds that were based on recently published taxonomic studies. Those changes are included below.

35th Supplement in 1985 (*The Auk* 102:680-686)

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) was taxonomically split from the Arctic Loon (*G. arctica*) of the Old World. Although field differentiation of the two species is very difficult outside of the breeding season, the occurrence of Arctic Loon in the eastern United States is unlikely.

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*), formerly regarded as the "white-faced" form of the Western Grebe, was taxonomically split from the "dark-faced" form (*A. occidentalis*). All Kentucky records from this group appear to represent *A. occidentalis*, but *A. clarkii* has been documented from states immediately to the west.

36th Supplement in 1987 (*The Auk* 104:591-596)

No changes to Kentucky birds.

37th Supplement in 1989 (*The Auk* 106:532-538)

Scientific name of the Northern Gannet was changed from *Sula bassanus* to *Morus bassanus*.

Scientific name of the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was changed from *Nycticorax violaceus* to *Nyctanassa violacea*.

English name of the Common Barn-Owl (*Tyto alba*) reverted to Barn Owl due to recognition of the species as distinct from another owl in the Old World.

Due to taxonomic changes in the Old World pipit complex, our Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) became the American Pipit (*A. rubescens*).

38th Supplement in 1991 (*The Auk* 108:750-754)

No changes to Kentucky birds.

39th Supplement in 1993 (*The Auk* 110:675-682)

The Green-backed Heron (*Butorides striatus*) was taxonomically split into two species, only one of which occurs in the United States. Our species reverted to the formerly used English name Green Heron and the scientific name was changed to *B. virescens*.

The Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) was taxonomically split into two species. Our species, which has been reported from Kentucky at least once, reverted to the formerly used English name, White-tailed Kit, and the scientific name, *E. leucurus*.

The Lesser Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) was taxonomically split into the American Golden-Plover (*P. dominica*) and the Pacific Golden-Plover (*P. fulva*). *P. fulva* would not be expected to occur in eastern North America, so all Kentucky records should be referable to *P. dominica*.

40th Supplement in 1995 (*The Auk* 112:819-830)

The scientific name of the Great Egret was changed from *Casmerodius albus* to *Ardea alba*.

The English name of the American Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) (known to occur historically in Kentucky) was simplified to Swallow-tailed Kite.

The scientific name of the American Golden-Plover was corrected to *Pluvialis dominica* (incorrect in previous change as *P. dominicus*).

The English name of the Common Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*), recently observed in Kentucky for the first time, was simplified to Black-headed Gull.

The Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) was taxonomically split into the Gray-cheeked Thrush (*C. minimus*) (probably most or all Kentucky records) and the Bicknell's Thrush (*C. bicknellii*). Although currently unrecorded in Kentucky, *C. bicknellii* may prove to be an occasional Migrant through the state.

The Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilio erythrophthalmus*) was taxonomically split into the Eastern Towhee (*P. erythrophthalmus*) (our common towhee) and the Spotted Towhee (*P. maculatus*) of western North America (two Kentucky records).

The Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) was taxonomically split into two species, the Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*A. nelsoni*) of the inland eastern United States, and the Salt Marsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*A. caudacutus*) of the Atlantic coast. All Kentucky records are known or assumed to be of *A. nelsoni*.

The Northern Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) was taxonomically re-split into the Bullock's Oriole (*I. bullockii*) of western North America (no confirmed Kentucky records) and the Baltimore Oriole (*I. galbula*).

FIELD NOTE

TRICOLORED HERON AT LOUISVILLE

On the morning of May 16, 1996, we were birding at a wetland area at the Outer Loop Landfill, in southern Jefferson County, when we located an adult Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*). The bird was resting on an artificial structure in the middle of a shallow pond surrounded by cattails. The heron sat and occasionally preened during the entire length of our observation, allowing for identifying photographs to be obtained. Duplicates of several of these photos have been filed with Lee McNeely, Secretary of the Kentucky Bird Records Committee. The Tricolored Heron remained at the pond until at least May 18, 1996, and several other birders subsequently were able to view it. Also present at this small wetland area at the time of our observation were a few common shorebirds and ducks, an adult Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), several American Coots (*Fulica americana*), and at least three Soras (*Porzana carolina*).

The Tricolored Heron was relatively small, approximately the size of a Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) or Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*), although no birds were nearby to make a direct comparison. The upperparts and wings were mostly a slaty blue, but a large patch of light brown plumes covered the middle and lower back. The underparts including the wing linings and undertail were white. The neck and upper chest were purplish-blue, although the chin was white. The legs were gray with olive-colored feet, and the bill was dark gray (darkest on the distal third), and rather long and dagger-like. The head was mostly slaty blue-gray with white plumes on rear of the crown that were quite noticeable. Eye color appeared dark, and a patch of yellow facial skin was present on the lores. These characters were observed at approximately 300 feet through a 60x spotting scope. The cloudy day allowed for an excellent assessment of colors without glare.

This represents the first of several Kentucky records of Tricolored Heron to be documented with photographs, although several previous sight records have been reported. These include two sightings from Jefferson County: June 19, 1990, one bird at the Falls of the Ohio (*The Kentucky Warbler* 66:84), and June 23, 1991, two birds at the Falls of the Ohio (*The Beckham Observer*, August 1991).

-- PAT BELL, 306 Fairlawn Road, Louisville, 40207, MARK MONROE, P.O. Box 22347, Louisville, 40223, and BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, 40222.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Reminder of the Kentucky Rare Bird Alert Hotline

Remember, the Kentucky Rare Bird Alert hotline is in service at (502) 894-9538. Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. regularly updates the tapes with your reports of unusual bird sightings from around the state. Help support this service with your reports.

K.O.S. Avian Research Grant Fund

The Kentucky Ornithological Society has initiated an Avian Research Grant Fund. Persons that need money (*i.e.*, up to \$500.00) to assist them in conducting

research on birds in Kentucky should contact the K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Grant Fund Committee c/o Blaine Ferrell, Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101 for a set of guidelines and an application form.

Kentucky Bird Records Committee

Rare bird sightings should be well documented and the documentation should be sent to Lee McNeely, Secretary of the KBRC, for consideration by the committee.

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BY BLAINE R. FERRELL

The names of participants and of species on the midwinter bird counts, Kentucky Ornithological Society meetings and seasonal reports have not been included in this index. The names of species on large tables have also been omitted. The capital R is indicative of a book review.

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